



# Indian Education Newsletter



Billings Public Schools

Vol. 2 Issue 3

December, 2007



## From the Indian Ed Office...

*We must overcome the awful inertia of past decades.*

—Michael Fullan

The American Indian experience in education is one of failed policies and programs. Beginning with the boarding school experience, education has left an indelible imprint on American Indians. The loss of language and culture in the early years began a cycle of failed efforts to provide a quality education to American Indians. The regimented industrialized model of school was a way of learning that Indians have and continue to struggle with. As a result, Indians continue to underachieve, despite all the best efforts to support education at the federal and state level.

Education has been both a liberator and a barrier to success for many American Indians. Plenty Coups, the last chief of the Crows said, "Education is your most powerful weapon. With education, you are the white man's equal; without education, you are his victim, and so shall remain all your lives". The story of Indian education in Montana reflects Plenty Coups words. There have been success stories of individuals within the system who have defied odds and found success despite the obstacles. However, the numbers who continue to score below proficiency



Red Whip — White Clay

and the numbers who drop out are too high to ignore. There are many factors that contribute to this problem. Apathy, geographic isolation, substance abuse and social problems are examples of issues facing American Indian communities. However, poverty is the common thread connecting Indians and non-Indians as it relates to academic success. Poverty increases the chance that a child will enter school with a vocabulary that is strikingly less than students from more affluent backgrounds. The chance that books for emerging readers being found in these homes is low to none. When the foundation of language is not allowed to flourish outside of school, it will have an impact on the overall learning experience of a student.

It can no longer be just an

"Indian education problem". In our urban areas, American Indian students attend non-Indian schools, and are taught by non-Indian teachers in schools run by non-Indian administrators. Even in reservation schools, Indian students are more likely than not to have a non-Indian as a teacher. We need to have Indians and non-Indians working together for a solution to closing the achievement gap. Together, perhaps we can become the generation that finally makes the breakthrough that allows Indians to achieve on the level of their non-Indian counterparts.

Despite all the negative experiences and setbacks, there are examples of Indians who have endured and experience success. Many have navigated through the K-12 system and have gone onto institutions of higher learning. Montana educators, such as Dr. Joe McDonald and Dr. Janine Pease have been able to use their success in education to give access to higher education to hundreds of Indian students. These pioneering educators, along with many, many others, fought to get Indians a foot in the door, a place at the table and a voice in the discussion. Today, many American Indians owe a debt of gratitude towards these educators who have opened doors for many of us.



### Special points of interest:

- Howard Boggess: *History Along the Rimrocks*
- Urban Indian Ed Forum
- Tim McCleary: *The Stars We Know*
- Scott Prinzing: *Native Music*
- PBS: *Native Vets*
- ABC: *Extreme Home Makeover*
- Title VII Reports

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## American Indian History Along the Rimrocks

Participants at the American Indian Heritage Day activities at Rocky Mountain College were offered a rare opportunity to hear about the history of the area surrounding Billings from Howard Boggess. Boggess is a Crow Indian historian and researcher. Howard explained how Billings is built atop major Indian sites. The Indians used the Rimrocks above the Metra to an area westward toward what is now a Billings industrial site as a buffalo jump. The buffalo were driven off the cliff for harvesting. Howard says there are layers and layers of old bones that lie underneath the industrial site.

Howard has walked many of the mountain trails from Sheridan, Wyoming to Bozeman, Montana. Many of the trails are marked with piles of rock to mark the way, and the Indians used a system of rock signs to help guide travelers and explain how far one must travel in what direction to find water, etc. Howard knows the stories of the rock paintings located in the Cotton Creek area, approximately 12 miles south of Bridger. There is a "sunset" winter solstice site at a



Howard Boggess  
© Helene Independent Record

cave in this area. He goes there every December 21<sup>st</sup> and watches as the light from the setting sun illuminates the back of the cave, gradually revealing a painting of a buffalo that is painted on the ceiling of the cave. It takes exactly 3 1/2 minutes for the light to cross from the head to the tail of the buffalo painting. Howard says this cave is one of only two known "sunset" winter solstice sites in the United States.

*Rimrocks, continued p. 3*

## Urban Indian Education set for Dec. 6-7, 2007

Urban Indian Education will take center stage at the Urban Indian Education Forum, Dec. 6-7, 2007 in Billings. Educators, administrators and parents from Montana's urban areas will come together to examine issues related to achievement and Indian Education for All in Montana's large school districts. According to data from the OPI, 23% of American Indian (AI) students attend schools in seven of the largest cities in the state. Another 22% attend schools that are not located on a reservation. In Billings, high school dropout percentages over a three year period show drop out rates 6.1% higher for AI students compared to

white, non-Hispanic students. Achievement rates for American Indian students aren't much better. As a subgroup, AI students in Billings Public Schools score lower in math and reading on standardized tests compared to their white, non-Hispanic counterparts. In 2008, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets will increase considerably. Even though gains were made from the previous reporting period, similar gains in the current year will not keep pace with the increase in the AYP targets. While the data may paint a picture of what isn't working, the hope of the organizers is to look at solutions and best practices that

*"While the data may paint a picture of what isn't working, the hope of the organizers is to look at solutions"*

can help increase achievement and reduce dropout rates for Montana's urban Indian students. — *Urban Indian Education Forum, Dec. 6-7, 2007, Holiday Inn Grand Montana*

## Book Review: The Stars We Know

Little Big Horn College Instructor Tim McCleary is the author of "The Stars We Know: Crow Indian Astronomy and Lifeways" Published by Waveland Books in 1997, the book is a great resource for science teachers. From the publisher: This fascinating ethnography explores how the Crow Indians have blended scientific observation with religious symbolism to develop traditions that are a



*The Stars We Know by Tim McCleary*  
© Waveland Books

cornerstone of their culture. For centuries, the Crow people have kept a careful watch on the heavens above them--particularly the cycles and movements of the stars, the sun, the moon, and certain planets. Their interpretations of these cosmic phenomena have shaped the principles by which the Crow live, providing a sense of right and wrong and an attendant set of values and ethics. The Crow

speak of this celestial wisdom as "the stars we know." In this illustrated volume, McCleary provides description and background but lets the Crow star knowledge unfold through the words of contemporary tribal elders, whose narratives describe the origins and organization of the universe and the history of constellations that have special religious interpretation and history. A valuable contribution to the study of Native American theology as well as an important record of Crow oral traditions.

## Rimrocks, continued...

*-continued from p. 2*

On a steamship coming west from St. Louis in the late 1830s, a trader was found to have symptoms of small pox and was quarantined. But he did not remain isolated and he passed the disease along to others on the boat. He also handled blankets which were to be traded to the Indians, spreading small pox among the prairie Indians, eventually wiping out 70% of the Indian population. The Crow became ill at Fish Creek and brought small pox to the Billings area. The "Place of Skulls" is where the bodies of those who died from the small pox epidemic of 1838 were pushed up under the Rimrock for burial. Approximately 12 years

ago, a 6 year old boy found a skull that had fallen from the cliffs. State anthropologists were called in and identified the skull as a Native American skull from the 1838 small pox epidemic. Mr. Boggess said that the bones and skulls of those who died from the epidemic can still be found along the Rimrock ledges.

The area atop the Rimrocks was eventually donated to the city in the 1950s by the Swords family to preserve the view from the rims. Black Otter, a Crow warrior, has his burial

site from the 1870s marked with a rock pillar on a bluff above the rims. Black Otter Trail got its name from him. Yellowstone Kelly also has his grave marked on a similar bluff in

Sword's Park. On the north Rims above the Billings present day industrial area is where a Crow warrior and his brother rode a horse off the cliff. According to Crow oral history, the warrior wanted to join his wife, who had died from small pox, in the afterlife.

*Rimrocks, continued p. 8*



*Rimrocks above Billings. © Big Sky Fishing. com*

## Montana's Indians at the NAMMYS - by Scott Prinzing

The Native American Music Awards, or NAMMYS, proudly honor outstanding musical achievements of American Indian artists from across the country in over 30 awards categories. It was launched in January 1998 as the first and only national awards show in the world honoring Native American and Aboriginal music. The NAMMYS was born out of a need to provide greater opportunity and recognition for traditional and contemporary Native American musicians. It has grown to become the country's leading source for preserving and promoting the songs of American Indians from all four directions. Today, the NAM-

MYS are honoring songmakers, fostering pride, providing national exposure, and celebrating the gift of music with others around the world.

*Billboard Magazine* wrote, "There is no better indication of the remarkable variety of today's Native American music than a glance at the award categories for the Native American Music Awards." The Ninth Annual Native American Music Awards show was held in October at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel in Niagara Falls, NY. Northern Cheyenne guitarist Paul Underwood of Billings - who performs as Exitwound - was honored

*"The Nammys was born out of a need to provide greater opportunity and recognition for traditional and contemporary Native American musicians".*

with three nominations, including Debut Artist and Best Instrumental Recording for his latest CD, *The Axeman Cometh*

*NAMMYS continued p.4*

## Cultural Presentation at Newman Elementary

Newman Elementary hosted a cultural presentation for students and parents on October 25, 2007. Larry Medicine Bull, Northern Cheyenne language and culture instructor at Lame Deer High School brought a group of high school students from Lame Deer to Newman. Larry began the evening by introducing the dancers. They represented a sampling of the variety of dances presented at



*Dancers from Lame Deer perform at Newman — Kathy Wilkinson courtesy photo*

the performance included Men's Grass, Chicken, Fancy Dance, as well Women's Fancy Shawl, Traditional, and Jingle. At the conclusion of the evening, Larry invited the audience to participate in a "round dance", which is a social dance that allows everyone at the gathering to participate. The students have also previously presented to students at Washington Elementary in Septem-

ber. Newman Elementary demonstrated an understanding of important tenants of American Indian cultural gatherings.; They provided a meal to their guests who came to their "home", and also presented Larry with a blanket as gratitude for sharing an important part of American Indian culture. To learn more about these dances and more, you can access the OPI's "Guide to Powwow's" at: [www.opi.mt.gov/indianed/studentbackground.html](http://www.opi.mt.gov/indianed/studentbackground.html). Or go to: [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com)

## PBS Documentary Depicts Bravery of Native Vets

"Way of the Warrior" examines the visceral nature of war and the bravery of American Indian veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War - and came to grips with difficult post-war personal and societal conditions. The documentary aired Nov. 1 on PBS.

Through firsthand interviews and accounts from comrades and loved ones, the stories are told against the backdrop of positive and negative themes familiar to Native people - the warrior ethic, prejudice, forced assimilation, poverty, cultural pride and redemptive acts and healing.



*Ira Hayes (far left) Pima, raises the flag at Iwo Jima*

The program honors the endurance and sacrifice of individuals such as Mitchell Red Cloud, Ho-Chunk, a Medal of Honor recipient; Ira Hayes, Pima, one of the flag-raisers on Iwo Jima; Phil Coon,

Creek, a Bataan Death March survivor; and John Yahola, Creek, a member of the Red Stick Warrior Society. Their stories are examined through the prism of what it means to be *ogichidaa*, one who protects and follows the way of the warrior.

The gripping and horrifying nature of war is brought home through dramatic historical footage, period photographs and sound effects. These are juxtaposed with photos of veterans in more genial settings, away from combat with family and friends stateside, creating a portrait of not just the warrior, but the paradox of a warrior's motivations.

## Navajo Teen Featured on Extreme Home Makeover

ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" aired an episode on October 28, 2007 that featured a Navajo family from Arizona. The Yazzie family, featured in the episode, live on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. The house they lived in was an old mobile home that was in a poor living condition. The house had holes in the ceiling, holes in the floor, windows that were broken and no insulation and very little heat. The family had no running water in their home. Gwendolyn, the youngest daughter suffers from asthma and seizures. She was affected by the coal-burning stove in the house. Garrett, the oldest child, did some

research on the internet and studied solar energy. He created a solar-panel from old aluminum cans and an old car radiator. This home-made solar panel helped heat the home when



*Yazzie Family Home*

burning coal was not an option. Garrett became known as a "junkyard genius," and the solar panel won him numerous national and local honors, awards and recognition. The house that was built for the Yazzie family was a blending of "green" construction and a design

that honored traditional Navajo beliefs. The home was modeled after the traditional Navajo dwelling called a "hogan". The house consisted of two hogans, joined together with a common area. Garrett, his younger sister, mother Georgia, live in one of the hogan's, while his older sister and her baby live in the second hogan. The house used green technology by using solar and wind energy to help keep utility costs down. Along with the home, the Yazzie family was presented with a Ford Escape Hybrid SUV.

## NAMMYS continued...

While he didn't get to take home a NAMMY this year, he was a guest presenter and got to hob-nob with many other Indian musicians from across the country. Several other Montana Indian artists or those with Montana tribal affiliation have been awarded NAMMYS over the past decade, including the Black Lodge Singers (Blackfeet), Gary Small Band (Northern Cheyenne), Joseph FireCrow (Northern Cheyenne), and Rezawrecktion (Crow). In addition, there have been several others who have received nominations, includ-

ing Exitwound (Northern Cheyenne), Blackfoot Confederacy (Blackfeet), Jack Gladstone (Blackfeet), Wallace Gladstone (Blackfeet), Evan Lee (Crow), Southern Cree Singers (Rocky Boy), Young Grey Horse (Blackfeet), Young Grey Horse Society (Blackfeet), and Phillip Whiteman, Jr. (Northern Cheyenne). Joseph FireCrow and Jack Gladstone have both been nominated for GRAMMYs as well. Tenth Annual Awards Show to Be Held Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008. For further information about the NAMMYS, plus membership and

nomination forms, visit [www.NativeAmericanMusicAwards.com](http://www.NativeAmericanMusicAwards.com).

*Scott Prinzing is the Director of Education and Coordinator of Music and Native American Programs for MusEco, a non-profit organization covering issues related to education, the environment, music, the arts and Native American issues. His program, "Montana Muse", can be heard on Yellowstone Public Radio in Billings.*



## Riverside Middle School

November proved to be another busy month at Riverside! Our American Indian student enrollment is holding steady at 75. Girls Basketball and Boys Wrestling seasons are in progress. We have several American Indian students participating. The Student Council sponsored their first school dance and our students are well represented in that body also.

The fund raiser merchandise arrived and the students were busy over the Thanksgiving break delivering the merchandise. Always, there are academics! The first quarter ended on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our grades and attendance are looking good, overall. Early in the month the Title VII staff attended a two-day strategic planning session on the district's "American Indian Achievement Project". Much work was done in collaboration with many other school personnel. The staff also had an afternoon of training on the "early out" day. As always, we trust that our students will benefit from our involvement.



*Cougars*

November 14<sup>th</sup> was the **General Membership Fall Meeting** of all Indian Parents district wide. We met at Lincoln Center Boardroom at 6:00.

Riverside parents were sent notices home and calls were made as reminders to attend. We had a nice showing. Members of our Diversity Club came and helped Mrs. Neiter provide child care in the gym. Our students enjoyed providing a service and were rewarded for their help. Both staff members gave brief reports on their daily activities to those present. It was an informative meeting and din-

ner was provided. If you missed it, be sure and come out for the Spring gathering. The Diversity Club has been extremely active this past month. They are creating the pieces for Traditional Games out of willows they gathered. In celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month the club and the Indian Education Program hosted a staff luncheon on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents came in and made fry bread from scratch. The meal was an Indian Taco with all the fixings. The students prepared and served it. They also decorated the Library. The staff appreciated the meal and the students worked very hard without realizing it was *work*! As always, if Mrs. Neiter or Mrs. Beaumont can be of help to you or your student at Riverside, please give us a call at 237-6871

## Senior High School

It's great to be back a Senior High! For those of you whom I have not met, my name is Anna DeCrane. I am an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe and have been with Indian Education since 1992. This is my second year at Senior High and I can be found in Room 210 M-F. Students are referred to me by Senior High teachers and staff, as well as parents and students themselves. I am the advisor for the Senior High Indian Club which meets weekly in the Library Reference Room.

Twenty five Senior High Native American Club members participated in the American Indian Heritage Day event held at the Rocky Mountain College Campus on Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Students read Native American stories to elementary students inside a tipi. Others helped with Native Games while some handed out tee shirts at the end of the health walk.

The Club also sponsored the tiny tot category at the powwow that evening in the Rocky Fortin Gymnasium. It was so much fun to watch our young dancers perform and such an honor to provide them with a small gift.

This year students plan on taking a trip to



attend a pow wow. Our Indian taco sale profits will go toward this expense. Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win a star quilt made by a club

member, Caitlyn Pease, along with other items as a fund raiser endeavor.

On Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>, Ken Bruno who specializes in Traditional Native Games will be our special guest during Native American Club meeting. Mr. Bruno will demonstrate and provide information about various Traditional games. Students or anyone for that matter can come and play some of the games at Senior High on **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 until 5:30**. The entrance will be through the glass doors at the far North East corner of the building.

### NA Club Officers:

President: Telsa Madden

Vice President: Harold Jefferson

Secretary: Trista Martinez-Eagleman

Treasurer: Caitlyn Pease

### Class Representatives

Senior: Kimberly Stump

Junior: Lucy Miller

Sophomore: Jimi Stump

Freshman: Gabe Rosas

### Saturday Live Indian Village

Indian Education participated again this year with Saturday Live at Pioneer Park on September 29<sup>th</sup>. A tipi was set up with the guidance of some real good Indian women which was used by Native dancers to give dancing lessons. Fry bread was also made fresh and sold. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent IPAC members, students and staff that gave up their Saturday to lend a helping hand. You made our fundraising endeavors for Indian Clubs a success. More importantly we enjoyed one another's company

*Senior High, continued on p.6*

### Teachers' Death a Great Loss to Students and Staff

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Senior High lost a most beloved teacher and friend, Ms. Rina Moog. In honor of Rina, and her time with us, a Memorial Service was held for all staff and students. The non-denominational service was facilitated by Rob Griggs and music provided by our choir students, orchestra students, and teacher Kristen Brooks. The loss of Rina has saddened our hearts and has also given us an opportunity to reach out to students and to each other. Many students and former students are deeply affected by this loss. If you are concerned about your child or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our Counseling Center at 247-2208 or myself 247-2178.

Rina wrote an article in Full Circle, a journal implementing Indian Education For All, entitled "Media literacy, Identity, and Empowerment". This was a project designed to encourage students to define themselves rather than allowing themselves to be define by media images. She shared how saddened she was by negative stereotypes frequently bandied about Native Americans. Rina was one of a kind will be greatly missed.

### Poetry and Dance Performance


In celebration of National Native Indian Heritage Month, Native American Club students presented a "Native Poetry and Dance" performance with the direction of Ron and Jane Garritson following the play "The council" written by William Yellow Robe and performed by Bonnie Banks' English students. William Yellow Robe is an enrolled member of the Assiniboine tribe of Fort Peck Reservation. He is one of the leading Native American Playwrights in the United States. The play production and Native Poetry and Dance performance was held November 15, 16, and 17 in the Senior High Auditorium. A copy of the performance is available on CD for \$5 each. Indian club students' memorized lines and learned synchronized dancing in only one and a half weeks before performance, practicing evenings and weekends. Their devotion and dedication paid off with a fabulous performance that everyone enjoyed. The support by parents who provided transportation, costumes, and food were greatly appreciated. It was great to see many family members and friends attend the performance.

Actors: from Senior High School, Charley Madden, Telsa Madden, Mariah Hogan, Loren Spence and Gabe Rosas. From Lewis & Clark Middle School, Mariah Williamson, Jennifer KnowsHisGun and Jane KnowsHisGun. From McKinley Elementary, Anastasia St.Clair. Backstage Crew: Senior High School, L.B LittleLight, Norman RoundStone, Suzie Boyd and Anna DeCrane – Club Advisor/Staff, Vashelle LaForge – parent

### New Teacher at Senior High School

Sharon Running Wolf is a new member of the staff here at Senior High School. She writes: Hi, My name is Sharon M. Running Wolf-I am from the Blackfeet Nation-near the Canadian Border. I began my teaching career in 1977, as a teacher's aide. As a result of my teacher aide work, I entered into school at Northern MT College during the fall of 1979-80. During my sophomore year, I was accepted into the MT Indian Teacher Training Program at the College Of Great Falls. I graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree and two endorsements: Special Education (K-12) and School Curriculum. I have had the opportunity to teach on various reservations-mostly in my Special Education area. During the 1999/2000 school year, I was able to enter and complete a Master's of Education degree with a School Counseling endorsement at MSU-Billings. I am very grateful and happy to be teaching Life Skills Math and writing Individual Education Plans as an underwriter for some of the special education students here at Senior High School. I believe my presence here at Senior High School will enable the minority students and all of the students to complete high school and enter into post-secondary school to become successful and productive citizens in their communities.







**Title VII Indian Parent Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Schedule**

Nov. 14, 2007	Dec. 5, 2007
Jan. 9, 2008	Feb. 6, 2008
Mar. 12, 2008	Apr. 16, 2008
May 14, 2008	June 4, 2008

*Meetings are held in the Lincoln Center Boardroom, 415. N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street from 6:00-8:00 pm*

Call Everall Fox, (406) 247-3765 for more info





# *Urban Indian Education Forum*

December 6-7, 2007

Holiday Inn Grand Montana

Billings, Montana

## *Indian Education for All and Academic Achievement*

*"Making the Connection"*

*Sponsors:*

*Montana Indian Education Association*

*Office of Public Instruction*

*Billings Public Schools*

*Great Falls Public Schools*

*Helena Public Schools*

### **Who Should Attend?**

K-12 educators, K-12 administrators, curriculum, Title 1, parent committees, state educational organizations, school board members, Indian Education organizations and Title 7.

### **Forum Focus:**

Urban Indian Education Issues

Resources for parents

### **Featured Speakers:**

Dr. Janine Pease, Assistant Vice-President, Planning & American Indian Affairs, Rocky Mountain College

Mandy Smoker-Broaddus, Academic & Achievement Specialist, OPI, Indian Ed. Division

Reno Charette, Native American Studies Dept., Montana State University-Billings

### **Schedule:**

Wed., Dec. 5, 2007 – Conference check-in at Holiday Inn Grand

Thu., Dec. 6, 2007 – Welcome, Supt. Linda McCulloch, OPI, Supt. Jack Copps, Billings Public Schools. Featured Speakers: Dr. Janine Pease, Rocky Mountain College, Mandy Smoker Broaddus, OPI and Reno Charette, Montana State University-Billings

Fri., Dec. 7, 2007 – Featured Speakers: Denise Juneau, Angie Collins & Mike Jetty, OPI.

**Hotel Information:** Holiday Inn Grand Montana, Billings, MT 406-248-7701 -- \$79.00 + (7% tax), call directly to make reservations

For more information, contact Dulce Whitford at (406) 268-7410, email: [dulce\\_whitford@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:dulce_whitford@gfps.k12.mt.us) or Everall Fox at 247-3765, email: [foxe@billings.k12.mt.us](mailto:foxe@billings.k12.mt.us)



Room 216A  
Lincoln Center  
415 North 30th  
Billings, MT. 59101

Phone: 406-247-3765  
Fax: 406-247-3713  
E-mail: foxe@billings.k12.mt.us



*Indian Education for All — Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indian Students in Billings Public Schools.*

**We're on the Web!**

**<http://www.billingschools.org/indian-education.htm>**



*Billings Public Schools Indian Education Office works to promote Indian Education throughout the District. The programs we oversee include:*

- *Indian Education for All*
- *Title VII Indian Education*
- *American Indian Achievement*

*Working in partnership with Billings teachers, administrators, parents and community, we can make a difference for American Indian students in Billings Public Schools.*

## Rimrocks, conclusion.

*-continued from p. 3*

As he rode toward the cliff, his brother jumped up on the horse behind his brother and joined in the suicide leap off the Rims.

Another story involving the Rims involves an area now called Sacrifice Cliff, a sandstone cliff north of present day refineries, across the Yellowstone River. Several young men returned from a horse stealing campaign to find their families who were camped along the river sick and dying from small pox. Traditional purifying mediums, such as the sweat lodge, did not help and only seemed to make everyone sicker. The heat from the sweat lodge only drove the pox deeper into the body rather than relieving the symptoms. Everyone was puzzled why the creator was so angry with the Crow that he would cause so many to become sick and die. Sixteen of the warriors who had recently returned to the village all agreed to go on a vision quest above the cliff.

When the warriors returned, four men revealed they had been given the same vision and told the same story. While the Crow had never previously believed in or practiced human sacrifice, the four warriors said the Creator demanded such a price. These same four warriors offered themselves as human sacrifice and rode their horses off Sacrifice Cliff where there is a slight concave area along the cliff face. There is also history in the Alkali Creek area with evidence dating back 4,000-10,000 years ago. In 1832 there was an incident at the confluence of Alkali Creek and the Yellowstone River. A group of fur traders were attacked by Blackfeet Indians and seven people were killed. The Blackfeet stole a large quantity of the furs, taking them into Canada. Representatives from the American Fur Company followed them into Canada and ran into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP were able to get the furs back to the AFC, thus avoiding an armed military confrontation.

Mr. Boggess had a wealth of information to share with the people who participated in this walking tour of the local history of the Rimrock cliffs that overlook Billings.

*-Thanks to Adrian Wegner, Senior High instructor for his contribution to the story.*

